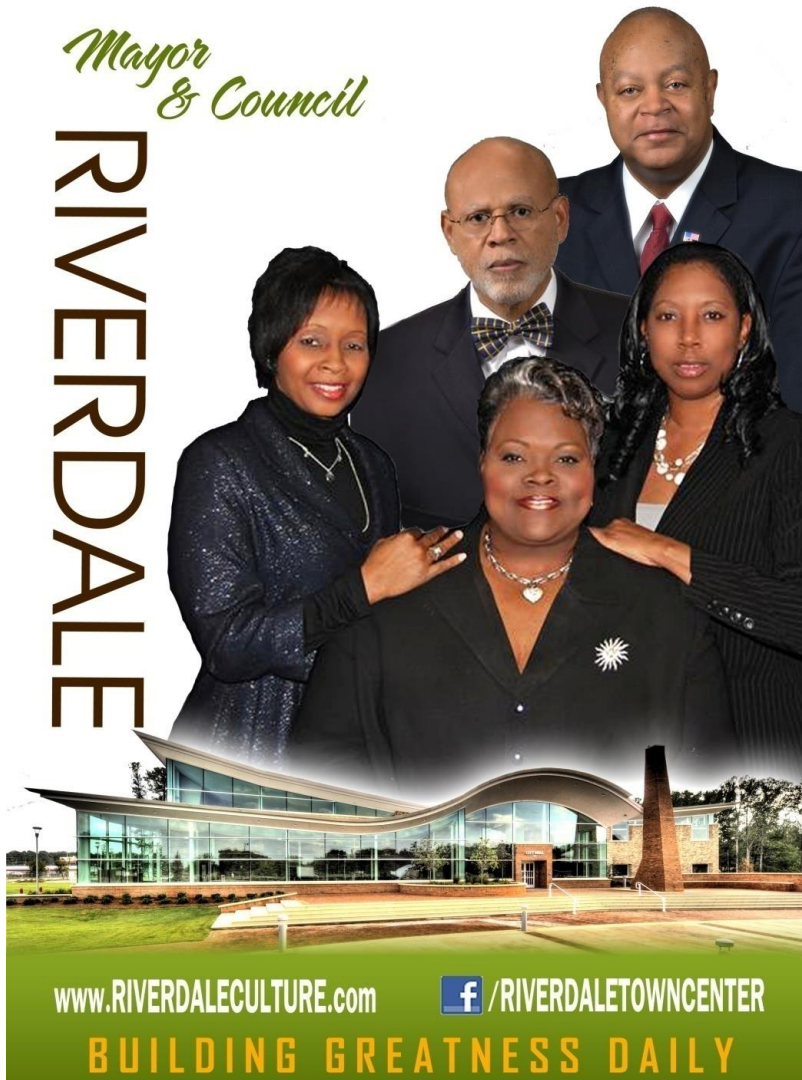




**APRIL 21, 2015
SPECIAL CALLED
MEETING MINUTES
6:00PM**

CITY OF RIVERDALE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING



MAYOR

Dr. Evelyn Wynn-Dixon

CITY COUNCIL

Cynthia Stamps-Jones, Ward 1
An'cel Davis, Ward 2
Wanda Wallace, Ward 3
Kenneth Ruffin, Ward 4

CITY MANAGER

E. Scott Wood

CITY ATTORNEY

L'Erin F. Barnes

**RIVERDALE CITY HALL
7200 CHURCH STREET
RIVERDALE, GA 30274
770-909-8989**

Prepared by:
Sylvia Vaughan

www.riverdalega.gov

**WELCOME TO THE MAYOR & COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE CITY OF RIVERDALE.
THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

**CITY OF RIVERDALE'S
SPECIAL CALLED
MEETING MINUTES
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
TUESDAY APRIL 21, 2015 | 6:00 PM**

The Honorable Mayor Evelyn Wynn Dixon

The Honorable Cynthia Stamps-Jones
The Honorable Wanda Wallace

The Honorable An'cel Davis
The Honorable Kenneth Ruffin

City Manager:
City Clerk:
City Attorney:

E. Scott Wood
Sylvia Vaughan
L'Erin Barnes

- A. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:** Honorable Evelyn Wynn Dixon
- B. ROLL CALL- CITY CLERK:** all Members of Council were present with the exception of Council Member Cynthia Stamps-Jones which constituted a quorum.

Council Member Wallace asked the Mayor and City Clerk if they were aware Council Member Cynthia Stamps-Jones was not attending the meeting. Mayor Wynn-Dixon and the City Clerk Sylvia Vaughan said no. She said let the record show that it is very disrespectful to this City for Council Member Stamps-Jones not to call and provide notification of her absence.

C. VOTE ON ETHICS OFFICER:

Attorney Barnes as if the meeting could be opened for discussion. Mayor Wynn-Dixon asked Ms. Millender to come forward to be interviewed. Council Member Ruffin asked Ms. Millender if she was on the Ethics Board in the City of Atlanta. She stated they do not work for the City of Atlanta but they have Board Members who work for the city. Council Member Ruffin expressed concerns about common law protection and if it deals with employees. Council Member Wallace said she has done research on Ms. Millender's experience and she has the expertise that she expect. Ms. Millender said the common law should not play a part. She said she has seventeen years of practicing law.

Mayor Wynn-Dixon asked Mr. James Dearing to come forward to be interviewed. Council Member Wallace asked Mr. Dearing about his experience in practicing law. Mr. Dearing said most of his cases are not trial base cases. He said he had a few ethics cases and he has reviewed the City Charter. Council Ruffin said he is very impressed with Mr. Dearing's resume.

Council Member Davis had no questions.

Mayor Wynn-Dixon said the resumes are very impressive. She asked Ms. Millender and Mr. Dearing how they would address the ethics complaint. Mr. Dearing said there are some protocols he might indicate. Ms. Millender said she would review the complaint and compare to the ethics code statute of limitation and make sure it is a violation. Council Member Wallace asked Ms. Millender if she has reviewed the City Charter. Ms. Millender said no. Council Member Davis said he was not sure if it was fair to ask interview questions with both candidates present. Attorney Barnes asked if the Council was ready to move forward.

Council Member Ruffin made a motion to approve Ms. Shukura Ingram Millender to be the Ethics Officer with Council Member Wallace providing the second. **The motion carried with Council Members Ruffin and Wallace voting “Yes” and Council Member An’cel Davis voting “No.”**

D. DISCUSSION OF THE ETHICS VIOLATION:

Ms. Millender said she look at the Ethics Code Statue of Limitation and talk to those who have been accused and others such as employees; and the person who filed the complaint. She said there is a thirty-day window and this needs to happen by May 6, 2015.

Mayor Wynn-Dixon said she lost her father at 4:00pm today but she came to the meeting because she would like to get the process started regarding the Ethics Violation and to remove the dark cloud from over the City of Riverdale. Council Member Wallace thanked Mayor Wynn-Dixon for attending the meeting.

Council Member Davis asked how long would it take. Ms. Millender said it would be in two weeks which would be May 6, 2015.

Attorney Barnes said the hearing could be in sixty days and to defer any information regarding the complaint to the City Clerk, Ms. Vaughan, so there will be no appearance of impropriety.

Council Member Ruffin said the best way to facilitate is through open records. Ms. Millender said no, Mayor Wynn-Dixon is eager to get this done.

Council Comments:

Council Member Davis had no comments.

Council Member Ruffin had no comments.

Council Member Wallace asked the City Clerk to read a written document into the record. (Please review attachment to the minutes).

E. ADJOURNMENT:

Council Member Wallace made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Council Member Ruffin providing the second. **The motion carried.**

Mayor Dixon asked if everyone would please keep her and her family lifted due to the loss of her father.

Evelyn Wynn-Dixon, Mayor

Sylvia Vaughan, City Clerk

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Evelyn Wynn-Dixon, Councilman Kenny Ruffin, Council Woman Cynthia Stamp-Jones, Councilman A'ncel Davis, City Clerk, City Manager, City Attorney, Ethics Attorney

From: Council Woman, Wanda Wallace

Date: April 13, 2015

This document is in response to Councilwoman Cynthia Stamp-Jones's memorandum that contained accusations of ethics violations dated April 6, 2015. I have carefully reviewed that document and can only respond to those accusations that Cynthia Stamp-Jones leveled against me personally.

Upon review of that memorandum, it became abundantly clear that this cleverly written document was developed to intentionally bully, intimidate, and defame me (Council Woman Wanda Wallace) and selected members of the executive board that did not go along with Councilwoman Cynthia Stamp-Jones and Councilman A'ncel Davis in the appointment of two key city employees that provided Councilwoman Cynthia Stamp-Jones and Councilman A'ncel Davis with preferential treatment. This is the second time in the last several months that Cynthia Stamp-Jones has attacked the same board members concerning the very same situation, previously using the media.

It is common knowledge that Cynthia Stamp-Jones and A'ncel Davis worked hand-in-hand in all dealings related to the city. Through observations, it appeared that Cynthia Stamp-Jones and A'ncel Davis entered into a relationship of fraternization/favoritism with at least two key city employees, one being the city clerk, who certified Cynthia Stamp-Jones accusations just 24 hours prior to her separation from employment with the city of Riverdale. These employees would provide Cynthia Stamp-Jones and A'ncel Davis with day-to-day information/guidance in their effort to micro-manage and undermine the authority of the new City Manager. Additionally, these two employees provided Cynthia Stamp-Jones and A'ncel Davis with preferential treatment concerning the distribution of day-to-day information that may be beneficial to them personally and/or politically.